

Waiau School Newsletter

Learning for Life

Term 4 . No 18
13th November 2018

2018 What's Happening

Wednesday 14th November
Teachers Strike - School Closed

Friday 16th November
Canterbury Anniversary Day -
School Closed

14-15th November
Dental Bus at Waiau School

Monday 19th November
Marae Trip - Room 2

Thursday 13th December
Prizegiving - 7pm

Friday 14th December
Last day of Term 4
- School closes 12pm.

Kia ora koutou,

I hope you are all well and have been enjoying the sunshine. It's a short week (3 day week) but a busy one!

By the sounds of things, Athletics Day was a huge success! I loved looking through all the great action shots of the children on Facebook (thank you Alix for taking these) and having the children excitedly tell me about their day. I also heard that there was a big parent turn out - great to have you all along supporting our children.

As always I was really proud to hear of their fantastic support and encouragement of each other, and to know that good sportsmanship was displayed. Thank you for helping us to teach and instil these hugely important values in the children.

A big congratulations to Rachel Forbes who took out the Championship Girl and was awarded the Gardner Cup and to Ewan Dalmer and Todd Williams for sharing the title of the Championship Boy and were awarded the Macfarlane Cup.

We have a group of senior children who have gone to the Hurunui Athletics today at Amuri Area School to compete. We wish them luck and hope that they have a whole lot of fun!



Brownie points goes to those who have noticed the awesome new signage in our school in the form of the two tear drop flags the wonderful Liv Pinckney has designed! Again this is about lifting our pride and appearance in our school and it is great to have our flag proudly promoting our school values as a reminder to our children.

The applications for the Principal and the Principal Release Teacher (Room 2 teacher) positions have now closed. The Board are now in the process of shortlisting the applicants and interviews will be held in the next few weeks. I will inform you as soon as I have further updates on this.

On Monday 19th, Room 2 will be going to the Takahanga Marae in Kaikoura for a day trip. Thank you to those who returned the forms quickly and to the wonderful person who has offered to take transport, much appreciated. This day will be a lot of fun, filled with great cultural learning. The children will be doing Raranga (flax weaving), Haka and Waiata (haka and songs), Pūrakau (listening to stories of the Marae) and Whāi Mātauranga (a scavenger hunt). We are grateful to have this relationship with Matua Rawiri who helps us to become involved in these fantastic experiences.

Thank you to those who came to the PTA meeting last night. For those who are keen to become involved or would like to find out more, please don't hesitate in contacting me or Sarah Williams. We would love to have you on board!

Lastly, you will be aware that the school is closed on Wednesday (Teacher Strike) and on Friday (Canterbury Anniversary).

Fielding Intermediate School's Principal in the North Island wrote a Facebook Post that has gone 'viral' as it sums up quite accurately why teachers are striking. It is not all about the money, which seems to be what the media are focussing on when reporting. If you are interested in reading the post, I have attached it here in the newsletter.

Check out my blurb in this newsletter also on how we will structure the classes for 2019 and look for the information around the Dental Bus being at our school this week.

As always, thank you for your support, and please don't hesitate to get in touch if there is anything you would like to discuss.

Take care team,

Rebecca Pugh
Acting Principal.

Class Placements 2019

I have been looking very carefully at how our classes will be structured next year to ensure that the children's academic, social, mental/emotional needs are able to met. I have considered the ways in which we can structure the classes to ensure that children can receive high quality teaching from our teachers through them being able to have manageable class sizes, and to ensure that the spread is not too large to be able to tend to the different learning groups. I have also looked at this to ensure that the children can receive extension in their learning and others can receive the specialised support that they need.

Therefore I have made the decision to structure the classrooms in the following way:

Room 1: Year 0-2

Room 2: Year 3-6

Reasons for this being:

1. We have a large group of year sixes leaving which makes Room 2 a much smaller class then Room 1 if we kept it at Year 4-6.
2. As Room 1 is the junior classroom with a good amount of New Entrants coming into the classroom, it is best for the teacher and the junior children to make that class as small as we can so that they can really be given the intensive support that they will need.

Structuring the classrooms this way will mean that the class numbers will be approximately (keeping in mind numbers fluctuate during the year):

19 children in Room 2 (as opposed to 13 children if it was kept at Year 4-6)

16 children in Room 1 (as opposed to 22 children if it was kept at Year 0-3)

I have taught in classrooms before that were structured as Year 3-8, so I am confident that this change is completely manageable and will not have a negative impact on the children and their learning. I have looked very carefully at the Year 3 children we would move up into Room 2 and I am confident that they will be successful. I will be contacting individual parents to discuss their child moving to Room 2 if we believe it could be an issue.

Our teachers are highly skilled individuals with a lot of teaching experience in being able to offer a differentiated learning programme to children of all levels. We are already teaching classes with a wide spread in academic and social abilities, and our teachers will just continue to group the children based on their needs and provide the informed teaching to this.

There will be some interchange happening next year where children may go to the other classroom for their group teaching if that is where their needs are, so we can ensure your children will receive teaching that is relevant to them.

If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am more than happy to discuss this with you.

Thank you for your support.

Dental Bus Visit

The Community Dental Service preventive mobile clinic is visiting Waiiau School on the 14th and 15th of November.

They will be aiming to see that all school age children enrolled with the Community Dental Service have their dental check-up in the dental mobile while it is here.

As the school is closed tomorrow for the Strike the Dental Clinic will have made contact with some families to arrange appointments for your children as they cannot reschedule their visit. The remainder will be seen Thursday. (Please find the information form attached.)

FACEBOOK POST:

"It is with some sadness that I read and hear the media reports about the offer that has been presented to the teachers. Much of the reporting is, in my view, - skewed to sound much better than the reality. Comments like "most teachers will receive a \$10,000 salary increase" are very misleading.

For example, a teacher who is joining the profession after spending 4 years at university - will receive an increase of around \$19 per week from this offer straight away.

A teacher who has been teaching for over 10 years - and has a full degree - will receive around \$27 a week extra from this offer straight away.

Secondary school teachers currently receive 10 days a term release - this enables them to prepare lessons, work with parents, mark assessments and participate in professional learning. Primary school teachers receive 2 days a term. In the last offer - primary teachers were offered a very small increase of 12 minutes extra release - in the new offer - this pitiful increase has been removed completely.

The release of 600 extra "learning support" staff is great - but there is very little information about what this might look like in reality. There are over 2500 schools in New Zealand. Chris Hipkins himself told me that crucial details like whether this person would be employed by the schools or the Ministry - "have yet to be decided". We have no idea if we will be able to use these roles directly in our schools as part of our staff, or if they will work across schools. It seems to have been announced quickly to garner favour - but with no specific details for schools. The Minister states that he needs time to find and train these people - when in fact we have SENCO staff in our schools already - who are connected to our whānau, tamariki and staff - and we urgently need funding to support them. Principals and BOTs are already using their operating grants and teacher staffing to support SENCO roles - while the Minister takes a another whole year to come up with a plan.

This seems not unlike the announcement of fantastic pay rises for support staff all over the media - which was announced as an "historic pay rise". This infact only related to around 300 "support workers" and totally excluded the literally thousands of teacher aides we have in our schools that earn only a fraction over minimum wage.

Comments like "the police accepted the same offer of 3%" are also very disappointing. While we are not trying to compare roles - the police are paid while they train - our teachers often start their career with massive student loans from 4 years of full time university study. The starting wage for a police officer is currently over \$56,000 - plus allowances, and overtime. The current starting salary for a teacher is \$47,980 with no overtime rates, or standard allowances. While I absolutely value and appreciate our police force - and they earn every penny - it is not fair to suggest that because police accepted 3% - so should teachers.

Today I have a teacher working the full day at school putting on a cooking show. I have another teacher spending the whole weekend in Wellington taking students to a sporting challenge. I have teachers replying to messages from their personal cell phones, arranging meetings after hours, and spending their evenings at discos, meetings and cultural events. I have teachers arriving at school at 6am to meet students for events, and the list goes on and on. So reports of 9-3, with 12 weeks holiday are simply ridiculous. My teachers work huge hours, and give up time with their own families. I know from all the emails and documents I receive from my staff well into the evenings and weekends - that they continue to work long hours at home.

We cannot expect everything straight away - but please believe me when I say this is not about greed for a bigger payrise. The conditions around classroom release, and extra support for students have been ignored completely. Infact - we have less release in this offer than in the last. We have students in our classes TODAY that deserve a better deal - they are not arriving in 2020.

I totally understand that the strike is a hassle for our community - we would much rather be at work too. My teachers cannot afford to lose another days pay - and know you can't either! But we are simply at a loss of how to be heard."

Diane Crate - Principal Fielding Intermediate School

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

COMMUNITY
dental service

Free Dental Care for Children

One of our Community Dental Service preventive mobiles will be visiting your school soon.

- We will be aiming to see that all school age children enrolled with the Community Dental Service have their dental check-up in the dental mobile while it is there.
- To do this we will be asking the school to provide your child's name, address and your contact information.
- The dental therapist will not only be checking the children's teeth but will also Xray, clean, and apply protective treatments fluoride and or Fissure sealants (coating put on teeth to prevent decay) if required.
- If your child requires further dental care such as fillings they will bring home a 'Care Plan' which will explain what dental care and appointment times are required
- When you receive the 'Care Plan' please contact our **Call Centre as soon as possible** as you will need to arrange a time to bring your child to one of our Community Clinics for this dental care
- **Please let us know ASAP if you do not wish your child to have any of this care, you can talk to the staff in the mobile or phone/email our Call Centre**
- If you wish to be present at your child's check up this will need to take place at our community clinic so please phone/email our **Call Centre** to make an appointment
- Please contact our Call Centre if you want further information on the Community Dental Service, to enrol your child or if you have any specific questions about your child's dental care (a dental therapist will call you back)

To contact our Call Centre: phone 0800 846 983 / email commdental@cdhb.health.nz